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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

14 June 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Charles E. Waterman, NIO/NESA

SUBJECT: Talking Points

Military Situation

- Israeli forces completed the isolation of West Beirut last night, setting up road blocks on the Beirut-Damascus highway, and cutting off the PLO and Syrian troops remaining in the city.
 - Elements of the Israeli force have reached the area of the Lebanese presidential palace.
 - Israeli forces are in control of the Beirut airport.
- The Israeli-Syrian ceasefire is holding, but there was heavy fighting yesterday and today between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Political Complications

- Continued Israeli military action in the Beirut area is rendering extremely difficult the urgent task of forming a national coalition government - including Shi'a, Druze, and other non-Maronite elements.
 - Heavy shelling of Beirut's Shia areas have heightened Shia hostility to Israeli activity. They are resisting fiercely.
 - Druze leader Walid Junblat has not, despite invitations, come to Beirut for participation in a unity government. To do so would entail safe conduct through Israeli lines, which may be tantamount to political suicide.

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- Surrounding by Israeli troops of the Presidential Palace at Ba'abda gives the perception that the Lebanese central government is not acting independently, and ensures any action taken by Sarkis will appear dictated by the Israelis.
- Without a Lebanese authority which includes Muslim elements and which is not an Israeli puppet regime, a political arrangement on the status of Palestinians remaining in West Beirut is impossible. Unless they are rooted out militarily -- an unlikely prospect -- they must be dealt with politically by a competent authority.
- The basic positive factors which have been brought about by the Israeli action -- a weakened Palestinian movement and weakened Syrian presence -- can only be exploited by strengthened central Lebanese governmental authority. It is essential, in order to bring this about, that Israel cease its current operations and agree to a phased withdrawal.

Iranian Troops

- Between 1,000 and 2,500 Iranian troops are now in Syria and Lebanon according to three separate sources. [REDACTED]

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in Syria. The remainder of the Iranian troops in Syria likely are Revolutionary Guards and militia, although we cannot confirm this. Two additional regular infantry battalions are being airlifted to Tehran where they will be flown to Damascus. The flight arrangements Iran originally made suggested Iran intended to dispatch between 10,000 and 30,000 troops to Syria over the next three weeks. Turkey has secretly approved the daily transit of two Iranian aircraft.

- Between 300 and 500 Iranian troops reportedly are inside Beirut where they probably are attached to Palestinian or Shia militia units.

Arab Reactions

- The reaction of other Arab states, while publicly relatively quiescent thus far, is increasingly hostile to continuing Israeli actions and what they view as American complicity.
- The Arab states have yet to decide on a course of action. Arab leaders, thrown off balance by the swiftness and extent of Israeli action, are uncertain about the outcome in Lebanon and the effect the crisis will have on broader Middle Eastern questions. Reporting continues to indicate popular hostility toward the US for what most Arabs regard as its collusion with Israel.

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- Among Arab moderates, there may be some private satisfaction at Syria's discomfiture and a willingness to acknowledge that there are positive aspects to the situation.

Soviet Reactions

- Four additional Soviet IL-76 military transports flew over Turkey to Syria over the weekend, making eight such flights since Thursday.
- The Soviet airborne division at Bolgrad remains on alert, although there are indications that elements of one regiment may be standing down [redacted]
- Soviet Union today issued a Tass statement -- indicating high level input -- demanding that Israel withdraw its troops from Lebanon. The statement is the strongest the Soviets have made since the crisis in Lebanon began. The declaration, however, uses vague language, includes no specific threat to Israel, and does not commit the Soviets to any specific action.

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Further Information

- A situation report to be prepared by DDI/NESA circa 1630 will include additional material on the above events and related trends.

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